

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009

Hanaford School Cafeteria

200 Middle Road

East Greenwich, RI 02818

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE
SUBJECT TO A**

VOTE

I. Call to Order

The second January meeting of the School Committee was held on January 27, 2009 at the Hanaford School at 7:00p.m. Members present: JeanAnn Guliano-Chair, Anne Palumbo, Vice-Chair, Mary Ellen Winters, Susan Records, Deidre Gifford, and Robert Durant as well as Superintendent Meyers, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Paula Dillon, Director of Special Education, and Facilities Director, Robert Wilmarth. Mr. Martin was absent.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Election of School Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

Virginia Giuliani, School Committee Secretary, conducted the election for School Committee Chair and Vice-Chair. On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mrs. Records, Mrs. Guliano was

unanimously voted the School Committee Chair. On a motion made by Ms. Winters and seconded by Mr. Durant, Mrs. Palumbo was unanimously voted the School Committee Vice-Chair

V. Approval of Minutes

January 6, 2009

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the January 6, 2009 minutes.

VI. Announcements and Recognitions

The following students were present at the meeting to receive their recognition and certificates:

a. Lego League Rhode Island Championship Robotics Club Students from Cole: Bennett Lallo, Jesse Zhan, Christopher Luo, Duncan Englehart, Alex Deneault, Thomas Nocera, Antoine Emery, Tyler Dresselhouse, Tristan Knott, Dominic Rizzo, and Connor Ross. The Cole Team won the Innovative Award and came in 12th out of 45 teams

b. Geography Bee winners from Cole Middle School are: Cody Alsop-winner, Alec Lebovitz-runner-up

VII. Superintendent's Report

a. Buildings Update

Mr. Jon Winikur stated that at the last meeting, there was a discussion of having either a general contractor or a construction manager. He added that the Building Committee has several members in the architectural profession and it was decided to move forward with a general contractor. He noted that the middle school estimate

will be within 1% of the budget at the middle school. At the high school, the estimates are under budget by 1.5%. The next steps are to submit the estimates to the Department of Education and to all town agencies. Mr. Winikur stated that they are being cautious to make sure we are covered for inflation. The project will go out to bid on April 1st for the science labs. They will then meet with the Town Manager to review the cash flows. Mrs. Palumbo asked about the percent of inflation. Mr. Winikur responded that it is 2.5% per year.

b. Band Trip

Mr. Meyers stated that everyone saw the band and the High School Principal, Jeannine Nota, march in the inaugural parade. He thanked the chaperones and the Band Director, Mr. Carniaux. They raised \$50,000 in five weeks and they are in the black. Mrs. Gifford stated that she was able to view the parade next to the Presidential viewing stand. She noticed the President watching our kids go by the viewing stand, and added that the Obama's made a point of looking at the kids march by. Mrs. Nota stated that everyone remarked at how well behaved the students were.

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c. Update on FY 2009 Supplemental Budget

Mr. Meyers noted that the House hearings for cost saving measures will be on Thursday and Friday on the supplemental budget. They include House Bill 5063 sponsored by RIASC; House 5065, changing the date of notification to teachers for non-renewal and

layoffs from March 1st to June 1st; Article 19, statewide health care system; Statewide Foodservice Contract, (which we are a part of); Statewide purchasing (which we do now); Article 22, Statewide bus transportation for regular and special education; and Article 18, the elimination of bus monitors. Mr. Meyers also stated that there is a provision that reduces our contribution to the Retirement System.

VIII. Financial Report

a. West Bay Community Health Cumulative Fund Balance Report

Mrs. Crawford spoke about our stop loss money and noted that our claims were 21% higher in the first six months of this school year. She also noted that we will have a joint meeting with the Town after the Audit Management Letter is in. Mrs. Crawford noted that our Healthcare Consultant, Mr. Cardello, would like to see us have a \$500,000 cumulative balance, and we may have to increase the health care costs in our budget. She stated that if we go out to bid, we will have to go with a premium based environment and administrative costs will be higher.

IX. Sub-Committee Reports

a. Personnel: Employer Feedback Survey Discussion

Mrs. Records stated that the survey is a good communication tool which is used for motivation and to keep people productive. It is not an evaluation tool. Mr. Meyers suggested that the Personnel Subcommittee come back to the School Committee with a recommended survey.

b. Wellness: Update on Shape-UP RI

Beth Hopkins is the representative from Shape-Up RI. Schools are in

the process of setting up teams. February 9th is the kick-off. There will be a forum on February 2nd at the Crowne Plaza. Also, Golds Gym is giving a lower rate for school employees and their families. There is no enrollment fee, but there is a gym fee.

c. Policy: Procedure for School Committee Members Visiting Schools

This is a policy committee issue. Mrs. Gifford asked about hiring someone who will keep the policy manual up to date. We will check the cost from the Rhode Island Association of School Committees versus hiring someone else to update the Policy Manual.

X. Action Items

a. Parental leave

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the committee voted unanimously to approve the following parental leave, resignation, and appointment.

i. Monica Jennings, Eldredge, Grade 6, from February 28, 2009 to April 30, 2009

b. Resignation

i. Kelli O'Neill, Mock Trial Advisor at Cole Middle School

c. Appointment

i. Paula Glod, Yearbook Advisor for East Greenwich High School

d. Bid Awards

e. On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted to approve the bid for the licensed plumber to Deltufo Plumbing. Mrs. Guliano recused herself from this vote because she said she has a business relationship with them.

- i. Licensed Plumber to Deltufo Plumbing in the amount of \$20,000**
- Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the bids, items 2 through 9. The motion passed unanimously.**
- ii. HVAC Technician to ATC in the amount of \$10,000**
- iii. Hardwood Floor Refinishing /Reconditioning to O'Keefe Building Maintenance in the amount of \$9,120.**
- iv. HVAC Cleaning, Maintenance and Inspection to Arden Engineering in the amount of \$30,085.**
- v. Carpet and Floor Tile Replacement to Ruggieri Flooring per their unit cost contract**
- vi. Licensed Electrician bid to B/Z Electric in the amount of \$5000.**
- vii. Elevator Inspection and Maintenance to Atlantic Elevator in the amount of \$9,480**
- viii. Asbestos Assessment and Monitoring to Vortex in the amount of \$2850**

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- ix. Fire Extinguisher Inspection and Repair to AllState Fire Protection in the amount of \$1916.00**

f. Youth Intervention Initiative

Mr. Robert Houghtaling noted that he has been with the East Greenwich Drug Program for 25 years. His noted that his work began in 1983 when Todd Morsilli was killed by a high school student who had been drinking. He does prevention education work and gets the word out about substance abuse. He also assesses, treats and refers students into after care. Mr. Houghtaling stated that mental

health issues wind up being tied into substance abuse. He added that he is looking to expand services. He noted that in the middle school, there are often early signs of kids smoking, and dabbling with substances. He did note that East Greenwich falls below the state average in use of illegal drugs. Mrs. Palumbo stated that the Mental Health Subcommittee needs to be resurrected again. Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the Youth Intervention Initiative. The motion passed unanimously.

g. Second Reading and Vote on Special Education Staffing Policy

Mrs. Dillon read the policy. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the policy. The motion was amended by Mrs. Guliano and seconded by Mr. Durant to include, school related activities, under bullet 3. The motion passed unanimously.

h. Approval of Resolution on 403B Management Plan

Mrs. Crawford stated that we needed to have a plan signed by January 1st, but the IRS has given us a one year reprieve. She noted that we already have a plan in place. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

i. Approval Building Committee Charge and Fiscal Management Procedures

Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to table the Building Committee Charge. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Discussion Items

i. School Committee Member's teacher recognition award discussion. There was no discussion.

ii High School Budget Workshop

Mr. Sommer and Mr. Kates from the Finance Advisory Committee were present as well as Department Heads. Mrs. Nota, High School Principal, stated that the State mandates that secondary schools have 330 minutes of instruction, not including study halls and passing. She stated that students need options available to them and she will increase courses in electives in 2010. Mrs. Nota noted that next year the high school will be involved in a self study for accreditation. She added that the process is started 18 months before NEASC comes to the high school. She added that she will need 2.4 teachers when study halls are eliminated, but because of budgetary issues, she will re-allocate the staff she has and increase class sizes. She feels that kids need to be in front of teachers in classes, not in study halls. Mr. DeCubellis, English Department Head, would like to phase in a learning lab since we need to maintain test scores. Mr. Meyers stated that a new schedule will help. It was noted that an advisory counts as instructional minutes Secondary Department Heads discussed their department budgets. Everyone felt that many laptops are in disrepair.

XII. Future Business – January - March

There was no discussion on this item.

XIII. School Committee Concerns for future consideration

By-laws will be discussed at a future meeting.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Records, the

Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary